

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 AID-20 IGA-02 MC-02 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

SS-15 NSC-10 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /094 W

----- 122747

O 181200Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4289

S E C R E T BEIRUT 11027

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN KU

SUBJ: MILITARY AIRCRAFT SALES

SUMMARY: BEIRUT SOURCES INDICATE KUWAIT AIR FORCE  
SELECTION COMMITTEE HAS SELECTED SUPER MIRAGE F-1 FOR  
KUWAIT AIR FORCE ACQUISITION, FOR MOTIVES OTHER THAN PURELY  
MILITARY. END SUMMARY.

1. SALIM HAJJ, GEN MANAGER, UNION TRADING &  
CONTRACTING GROUP, BEIRUT, AND OWNER OF ACADEMY OF  
TECHNICAL SCIENCES, BEIRUT (AVIATION TRAINING),  
ALLEGES FOLLOWING WITH RESPECT SUPPOSED KUWAIT DECISION  
PURCHASE SUPER MIRAGE F-1:

2. GEN HUQUES DE L'ESTOILE, DIR OF INTERNATIONAL  
AFFAIRS, MIN OF STATE OFR NATIGRAL DEFENSE, PARIS,  
AND COL DE LAHAIT OF AVIONS MARCEL DASSAULT-BREGUET,  
HAD EARLIER ASKED HAJJ TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES IN  
CONVINCING SELECTION COMMITTEE KUWAIT AIR FORCE TO  
RECOMMEND ACQUISITION 16 SUPER MIRAGE F-1 FIGHTERS.  
QUID-PRO-QUO WAS PROMISE BY FRENCH TO COVER COMMITTEE AND  
HAJJ FINANCIALLY.

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3. ACCORDINGLY, ON THURSDAY, SEP 13, SELECTION COMMITTEE SIGNED

RECOMMENDATION FOR KUWAITI AIR FORCE ACQUISITION 16 SUPER MIRAGE F-1'S TO BE FORWARDED TO MIN OF DEFENSE.

4. GEN DE L'ESTOILE AND COL DEL LAHAIT THEN ASKED HAJJ AND SELECTION COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH THEM IN BEIRUT ON SEP 17 FOR CONFIRMATION THAT SELECTION COMMITTEE HAD APPROVED THE ACQUISITION OF 16 MIRAGE SUPER F-1'S. MEETING TOOK PLACE BEIRUT DURING WHICH SELECTION COMMITTEE SHOWED BOTH FRENCH OFFICIALS THEIR RECOMMENDATION. THEN, ACCORDING HAJJ, GEN DE L'ESTOILE TOLD HAJJ THAT SINCE SELECTION COMMITTEE HAD MADE RECOMMENDATION AND HAD FORWARDED SAME TO MIN OF DEFENSE, NO LONGER NEED FOR FINANCIAL COVERAGE TO HAJJ AND THE COMMITTEE. HAJJ STATES BOTH FRENCH OFFICIALS, THROUGH FRENCH AMBASSADOR KUWAIT, HAD ALSO APPROACHED MIN OF DEFENSE, WITH FINANCIAL FAVORS, TO ACCEPT COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS. ACCORDING HAJJ, HE (HAJJ) AND COMMITTEE ARE FURIOUS BUT NOW POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING UNLESS RULER OF KUWAIT ORDERS COMMITTEE TO REAPPRAISE SITUATION, I.E., SUPER MIRAGE F-1 VIS A VIS F-5E. COMMITTEE REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN BURNED VERY BADLY ON THIS ONE AND ARE ANXIOUS TO BE PERMITTED OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBMITTING ANOTHER REPORT, PARTICULARLY SINCE RULER KNOW TO FAVOR US EQUIP.

5. SELECTION COMMITTEE STILL IN BEIRUT. COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF SHEIKH JABR HAMOUD (COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND MAJ KUWAITI AIR FORCE), AND 5 KUWAITI AIR FORCE COLONEL. ACCORDING HAJJ, L'ESTOILE AND LA HAIT DEPARTED BEIRUT FOR KUWAIT EVENING SEP 17 FOR SUBMITTAL FINAL PROPOSAL TO KUWAITI GOVT COVERING PACKAGE 16 SUPER MIRAGE F-1'S. HAJJ STATES ANOTHER FORTHCOMING KUWAIT PACKAGE CONSISTS OF 24 HELICOPTERS, SUPPOSEDLY IN CATEGORY OF AEROSPATIALE PUMAS OR BELL 212/214'S.

6. COMMENT: HAJJ, THOUGH NOT PERSONALLY WELL KNOWN TO RCAA, IS CONSIDERED KNOWLEDGABLE SOURCE OF INFO AND MIGHT WELL BE REPORTING ACCURATELY. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT HE IS MERELY TAKING PERSONAL REVENGE FOR HAVING BEEN OUTWITTED IN SOME SORT OF DEAL

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THAT WAS OF COURSE HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE IN THE FIRST PLACE. HIS INFO MUST THEREFORE BE CONSIDERED WITH GREAT CAUTION (AS WELL AS WITH GREAT CONFIDENCE IN LIGHT OF THOSE ALLEGEDLY IMPLICATED). HOWEVER, IF IN FACT NORTHROP MIGHT STILL BE IN THE RUNNING, IT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE TO PASS THIS ON TO NORTHROP REP ROGAN, WITHOUT GOING TOO DEEPLY INTO THE DETAILS WHICH ARE BOTH SENSITIVE AND UNCONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES.

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## Message Attributes

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